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Editor's Introduction

Naomi H. Bishop

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Editor's Introduction

This issue of HRB pulls the journal from its time warp and puts us back on the track of timely, twice yearly publication. The scramble to catch up has preoccupied us a bit. Now, perhaps, there will be time to track down elusive contributing editors, exhort contributions from our talented members, master the soft- and hardware that simultaneously facilitates and enslaves us in the preparation of *HRB*.

Here in the last stages of preparing the journal, it is the computer glitches that preoccupy us. We had hoped to break new ground in this issue, freely incorporating maps and other graphics to enliven the text (Archaic images of the world would have illuminated Ter Ellingson's contributions to the Roundtable discussion of Himalayan studies, and our book review section, with Susi Dunsmore's book on Nepal's textiles as source, would have been spectacular!) But somehow in the eleventh hour--when every issue of *HRB* finally comes together--the PC-scanned materials won't open and print from the Mac, despite the best efforts of anyone at Portland State who made the mistake of staying late and falling into our desperate hands. The best we can offer is more photographs (along with the hope that the printing does them justice), a run at two-column format, some variation in fonts, and a new trial cover. We invite our readers' responses to these modest innovations, and any suggestions for further--or fewer--manipulations.

We are beholden, as always, to a number of helpful friends. Photographers John Bishop and Kevin Bubriski offer their images to this issue. Frank Shulman's offering of dissertation abstracts has been expanded, and we look forward to an annual report to include European and Asian dissertations as well as British and American. John Metz has been tireless in assembling conference information. Todd Lewis, book reviews editor, has lined up a number of reviews; we've had space for only three in this issue and thank the reviewers who provided them. NSA President Naomi Bishop, though ostensibly on sabbatical this spring, has been extraordinarily generous with her time and energy in seeing the *Bulletin* through as well as in performing her varied tasks as organization president. Kamal Adhikary, though technically finally free of obligation to *HRB*, has continued to help us. Gregory Schopen again gave advice about Tibetan language mysteries. Despite it, we must once again apologize for shortcomings with diacritics and italicization. We remain some distance from our goal of accurate representation of the languages used by *HRB*'s authors, and ask for continuing patience. Continuing patience, good humor, and competence characterize *HRB*'s soon-to-be-ex editorial assistant, Charles Allen. In the final quarters of his Geography Master's degree, Charles has put aside his thesis and other pressing school business to plunge into production of not one but two *Bulletins* in the space of four months. He has simultaneously had to learn to manage our members list, and has almost succeeded in pruning the list of those members we've encoded "deadbeats"--those we've not heard from this decade. (Is there an *RD*--"retained deadbeat"--on your address label? Perhaps you'd like to rejoin us, before you're dropped forever from our database.) Big thanks to Charles, who's become sufficiently smitten with the Himalaya he may forsake the dissertation work he's been considering in the Andes and rejoin the ranks of Himalayanists.

Until mid-August the offices of *Himalayan Research* will be unmanned, so pardon us if we are not quick to respond to your communications. We would be delighted to return in two months to a pile of membership requests and renewals, submissions for *HRB* of all kinds, and any other communications from our readers. Deadline for XV (2) is September 15th; we'll hope to hear from many of you.